



Figure 4

II. Data Analysis Summarization

A. Social Data Analysis Summary

The Von Gontard's Landing access point, in the South Park area of the Snake River, is primarily used as a take-out point for users floating the Wilson Bridge to South Park segment of the river. Approximately 80% of the boating use at Von Gontard's is for take-out operations. The river in this area draws both heavy local use and is a popular tourist destination due to its close proximity to the resort town of Jackson, Wyoming. Both private and commercial users (mostly scenic rafting companies and fishing guides) use the access, especially in the summer months.

The season for scenic floating typically begins around Memorial day, with float fishing beginning after peak runoff, typically in late June. The scenic floating season tapers off around Labor Day while the float fishing will continue into the Autumn months. During spring, snow melt run-off and high water volume cause the water clarity to drop, making the river conditions unfavorable for fishing (however, scenic rafting is still popular during this season). Once water clarity improves, typically in late June, the recreation levels begin to increase. User groups during this part of the season typically include commercial outfitters and their clients, and private boat operation.

In addition to anglers and rafters, Von Gontard's Landing is also popular with hikers, bird watchers, and picnickers. The scenery, river access, and proximity to the highway make it a popular day-use recreation area.

Currently, both the Von Gontard's Landing and the BLM South Park parcel are undeveloped and offer no public facilities. As the level of use on this section of the Snake River increases over time, the amenities provided by a developed river access area on the BLM parcel would provide several amenities to serve the public need while protecting the land and water quality on the site.

B. Physical Resource Data Summary

The 23-acre BLM parcel features a gallery of cottonwood trees in the Snake River plain, a large natural gravel bar ideal for boat landing and launching, healthy riparian vegetation, and flat areas suitable for development. There is easy access to Highway 189/191 from both the east and west sides of the site. Just upstream from the parcel, there is a man-made levy system and bedrock-created rapids. Bald Eagles are known to nest in the area, using the Snake River corridor up and downstream of the South Park Bridge.

C. Functional Relationship Analysis Summary

A variety of user groups have been identified in the South Park area of the Snake River. They fall generally into two groupings: recreational and non-recreational users. Some uses identified below are now actively pursued at the Von Gontard's Landing site, while others can be anticipated based on the improved access and amenities afforded by the (improved) BLM site and the planned Teton County regional bicycle/pedestrian trail system.

Recreational Users

These include but are not limited to boat and bank anglers, rafters, large group floaters, hikers, wildlife watchers, picnickers, kayakers, day-users, and cyclists.

Non-Recreational Users

These include, but are not limited to, commercial gravel excavators, tourists/ travelers and local commuters/park and ride users

The site is suited to meet the needs of all of these groups. It has access from both the north and southbound lanes of Highway 189/191. On the preferred plan, an underpass/ tunnel under the highway would connect the east and west sides of the project area. A Functional Relationship Diagram is provided as Figure 5. The natural features of the site including river access, natural coves and lagoons, and a gravel/sand beach make it well suited for boaters, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts. Proposed vegetation would provide screening from the highway and maintain the rural, natural feel of the area.

SOUTH PARK RIVER ACCESS

PINEDALE, WYOMING FIELD OFFICE

Functional Relationship Diagram

October 2003



Figure 5